

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139482

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 2442 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2442

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, FR, BE, SU

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: PARA 7, STATE 137343

1. WILL THE SUDAN CONCUR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AFRICAN
FORCE? HAD I BEEN ASKED THIS QUESTION AS RECENTLY AS TWO OR
THREE MONTHS AGO, MY ANSWER WOULD HAVE BEEN A RESOUNDING
AND UNQUALIFIED "YES". IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, MY JUDGMENT
IS THAT THEY WILL PRIVATELY WELCOME SUCH A FORCE AS AN
INDICATION THAT THE WEST IS AT LAST WAKING UP TO THE DANGER
POSED BY THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. THEIR
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PUBLIC POSITION, HOWEVER, MIGHT WELL BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT.

2. SUDANESE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR ON AFRICAN MATTERS IS BECOMING
INCREASINGLY DOMINATED BY SUDAN'S PROSPECTIVE PRESIDENCY
OF THE OAU. IF SUDANESE PERCEIVE THAT ISSUE OF INTER-AFRICAN
FORCE IS SERIOUSLY DIVISIVE AMONG OAU MEMBERS, THEY MAY
WELL TRY TO STRADDLE THE ISSUE AND AVOID TAKING A PUBLIC

POSITION. OTHER FACTORS IN SUDANESE THINKING WILL BE THEIR DESIRE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND (TO A MUCH LESSER DEGREE) LIBYA.

3. DESPITE THESE NEGATIVE FACTORS, HOWEVER, I THINK THE EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE SUDANESE PUBLICLY TO SUPPORT SUCH A FORCE IS WELL WORTH THE TRY. FOR THAT REASON, I WOULD HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO CONSULT WITH THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. I WILL PROBABLY BE ACCUSED OF MIXING APPLES AND ORANGES, BUT IF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SUPPORTING THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE WERE TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUDAN AS A STABILIZING ELEMENT ON THE CONTINENT, AND INDICATE SOME READINESS TO ASSIST SUDAN IN ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, OUR TASK WOULD BE MUCH EASIER.
BERGUS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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